
Draft

Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program Guidelines and Application Package

**California Department of Water Resources
&
California Department of Fish and Game**



October 14, 2011



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SECTION 1

Introduction

This draft Guidelines and Application Package describes the process for providing grant funding to support near-term actions by local agencies and other qualified entities to improve habitat for fish and wildlife at the Salton Sea. It provides the overall scope, priority, and desired outcomes of activities that will receive grant funding under the Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program (Program) and establishes the process and criteria for selecting proposals and awarding grant funding to applicants.

SECTION 2

Program Guidelines

These draft guidelines, developed for the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and are posted on the DWR web site (<http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/>); the guidelines will be available for public review and comment for 45 days. During the public review period, DWR will conduct at least one public workshop on the draft Guidelines and Application Package for interested parties. Following consideration of public comments, DWR will finalize the Guidelines and Application Package and solicit grant proposals. The final Guidelines and Application Package will be posted on the DWR website above.

2.1 Background

The Salton Sea provides essential habitat for fish and wildlife and is an important cultural and recreational resource. It has no outlet, and dissolved salts contained in the inflows concentrate in the Sea through evaporation. The salinity of the Salton Sea, which is currently near 1.5 times the salinity of ocean water, has always been on an increasing trend. However, reductions in inflows resulting from water conservation, recycling, and transfers are anticipated to lower the level of the Salton Sea, accelerate the rate at which salinity increases, reduce the suitability of habitat for fish and wildlife, and potentially degrade air quality by exposing seabed playa which could generate fugitive dust.

In recognition of these current trends and the importance of the Salton Sea ecosystem, the California Legislature enacted legislation in 2003 that directed the California Resources Agency (now the Natural Resources Agency) to prepare a restoration study and a programmatic environmental document to explore ways to restore important ecological functions of the Salton Sea and to develop a preferred alternative. The Ecosystem Restoration Study and Programmatic Environmental Impact Report were completed in 2007, and the Secretary of the Resources Agency, based on the information contained in those documents, recommended a preferred alternative for ecosystem restoration to the Legislature. To date, the Legislature has not made a decision regarding a preferred alternative; however, in 2010, it enacted Senate Bill 51 (Ducheny), which established the Salton Sea Restoration Council as a state entity under the Natural Resources Agency to oversee the restoration of the Salton Sea. However, the State Legislature has not yet appropriated funds for the Council.

In the interim, habitat values at the Salton Sea continue to decline as salinity increases and water levels recede. To address the near-term loss and degradation of habitat during the period prior to implementation of the preferred alternative, DWR and DFG have collaborated to establish the Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program (Program). DWR is instituting this Program to provide grants to eligible applicants (local agencies, private nonprofit organizations, tribes, universities, and State and federal agencies) for projects that conserve fish and wildlife within the Salton Sea ecosystem.

2.2 Funding Source

The Program will be funded through the Salton Sea Restoration Fund, which was established with enactment of the Salton Sea Restoration Act (Chapter 13 of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code commencing with Section 2930) and funded in part by Proposition 84 (The Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006).

The Salton Sea Restoration Act authorizes the following uses of the Salton Sea Restoration Fund (Fish and Game Code Section 2932):

- (a) Environmental and engineering studies related to the restoration of the Salton Sea and the protection of fish and wildlife dependent on the sea.
- (b) Implementation of conservation measures necessary to protect the fish and wildlife species dependent on the Salton Sea, including adaptive management measurements pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081.7. These conservation measures shall be limited to the Salton Sea and lower Colorado River ecosystems, including the Colorado River Delta.
- (c) Implementation of the preferred Salton Sea restoration alternative.
- (d) Administrative, technical, and public outreach costs related to the development and selection of the preferred Salton Sea restoration alternative.

Several of these authorized uses apply only in connection with a preferred alternative. Because the Legislature has yet to authorize a preferred alternative, the Program focuses on the uses identified in section (b) above (conservation measures necessary to protect the fish and wildlife species dependent on the Salton Sea). Due to the rapidly changing environment at the Sea and the urgent need to stabilize this habitat, the Program includes activities conducted at the Salton Sea or along its tributaries, and specifically excludes activities on the lower Colorado River or Colorado River delta area.

Approximately \$3 million is targeted for this solicitation cycle, reflecting the availability of Proposition 84 funds that have been allocated to the Natural Resources Agency this fiscal year for these purposes.

2.3 Conservation Objectives

Priority will be given to proposals meeting at least one of the following conservation objectives for fish and wildlife at the Sea:

- Habitat creation or enhancement that provides sustainable and functional habitat for the protection of fish and wildlife at the Salton Sea;
- Water quality improvements that would directly contribute to the conservation of fish and wildlife resources at the Salton Sea;
- Research activities that directly resolve data gaps currently acting as impediments to creation and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat at the Salton Sea;

- Adaptive management experiments that would improve the effectiveness of habitat management and habitat quality for fish and wildlife at existing managed habitats at the Salton Sea.

These four conservation objectives form the basis of the four possible project categories for which applicants must provide information when applying for project funding. Each category is explained below.

2.3.1 Habitat Creation and Enhancement

The primary goal of the Program is the immediate and near-term retention of habitat values for fish and wildlife through creation and enhancement of habitat or habitat features at the Salton Sea. Salinity in the Salton Sea is steadily increasing, and it is anticipated to accelerate substantially after 2017, when water currently flowing to the Salton Sea to mitigate flow reductions will be discontinued.¹ At that time, salinity in the Salton Sea is expected to rapidly increase and reach the point where most fish resources are no longer viable. Therefore, proposed habitat creation projects must be functional (provide functioning and usable habitat for fish and wildlife) prior to 2017 and continue to be functional as salinity increases after that time.

The creation of habitat on the Salton Sea plays a role to produce benefits for fish and wildlife was described in the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program PEIR (2007), and is further supported in the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat project Draft EIS/EIR (August 2011). Many of the alternatives considered in the PEIR involved the creation of shallow saline water bodies that would support many of the habitat values currently provided by the Salton Sea. The characteristics and configurations in these alternatives may provide some guidance on the types of habitats that would be considered under the Program, although other ideas for meeting the conservation objectives are encouraged. Proposed habitat creation must occur at the Salton Sea or along its tributaries (excluding the lower Colorado River) and provide habitat for one or more fish and wildlife species dependent on the Salton Sea. Priority will be given to proposals that would create or enhance fish and wildlife habitat at greatest risk from near-term increases in salinity or water level declines. The Program will initially focus on the following fish and wildlife:

- Species using the Salton Sea that are listed by the State of California as endangered or threatened, or that have been designated as fully protected or a species of special concern (examples include desert pupfish, *Cyprinodon macularius*, and California brown pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)
- Migratory water birds that rely on the Salton Sea as an important migratory stopover or wintering area (examples include eared grebes, *Podiceps nigricollis*, and western sandpiper, *Calidris mauri*)
- Colonial breeding water birds (examples include gull-billed tern, *Gelochelidon nilotica* and black skimmer, *Rynchops niger*)

¹ California Resources Agency. 2007. *Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report*.

- Breeding Shore birds (examples include American Avocet, *Recurvirostra americana*, and Black-necked stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*)
- Piscivorous birds that rely on the current fish resources at the Salton Sea (examples include American white pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* and double-crested cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus*)

DFG is developing shallow, saline ponds at the south end of the Salton Sea, referred to as the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project. The SCH Project is being developed for the conservation and protection of the fish and wildlife species dependent on the Salton Sea in accordance with California Fish and Game Code Section 2932. Applicants proposing habitat creation similar to the SCH Project are encouraged to become familiar with and incorporate the information available for that project into their proposals; this information is available on the DWR website: <http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/habitat/habitat.cfm>.

2.3.2 Water Quality Improvement

Water quality in the Salton Sea and its tributaries has been identified as one of the impediments to conservation of fish and wildlife resources at the Salton Sea. Under this Program, funding may be provided for actions to improve water quality that are located at the Salton Sea or along its tributaries (excluding the lower Colorado River) and that make a direct and substantial contribution to the conservation of priority fish and wildlife defined above.

2.3.3 Research

To be eligible for funding under this Program, proposed research must demonstrate a linkage to 1) the near-term creation and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, or 2) the replacement of habitat values lost as a result of deteriorating conditions at the Salton Sea. The research should be applicable to conservation of fish and wildlife by reducing the uncertainty regarding the design, structure, and management of created habitats at the Salton Sea.

The applicant may propose any research that meets the goals and objectives of the Program.

Research proposals that build upon existing research will be considered, although it must be clear how the new research will contribute to the near-term establishment of habitat at the Salton Sea. Some examples of research currently funded by DWR and DFG follow:

- Selenium ecorisk modeling. A selenium ecological risk model was developed to quantify expected selenium levels in the SCH Project ponds and ecological risk for fish and migratory and resident birds arising from development of the SCH Project at the Salton Sea. The ecological risk assessment evaluated effects from potential future irrigation and water management activities that could affect selenium concentrations in the source water for the SCH Project ponds and included review from recognized experts in the field.
- Laboratory microcosm studies. These studies were conducted to determine the temperature and salinity tolerance and the effects of dissolved oxygen at the highest

tolerated temperature regime for strains of tilapia that could be introduced into the SCH Project ponds.

- Selenium management. As a result of a literature review and selenium workshops sponsored by DWR and DFG, UC Berkeley researchers are proceeding with laboratory and field studies to evaluate the feasibility (through design and management) of constructed wetlands as a tool for selenium management for habitat developed at the Salton Sea. This work is planned through 2012.

2.3.4 Adaptive Management Experimentation

Funding may be provided for adaptive management experiments conducted at existing managed habitats at the Salton Sea to improve function and management, and provide scientific knowledge applicable to future restoration actions.

Adaptive management in this context means experimental manipulation and monitoring of habitat to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions in producing benefits for fish and wildlife. Adaptive management experiments may also address some of the research questions identified above. The proposed adaptive management must be conducted at existing habitats at the Salton Sea or along its tributaries (excluding the lower Colorado River) and focus on enhancing existing habitat for priority fish and wildlife or filling important data gaps.

2.4 Eligibility Requirements

To receive Program funding, both the applicant and the application must meet eligibility requirements. Eligibility will be determined by an Administrative Review process consistent with the information in these Guidelines. The application must be received on time, post marked no later than 45 days from the date the solicitation was posted on DWR's website.

2.4.1 Eligible Grant Applicants

Any public agency or nonprofit organization as defined in Public Resources Code Section 75005(k) may apply. This includes, but is not limited to the following entities:

- Local agencies
- Nonprofit organizations
- Tribes
- Universities
- State agencies
- Federal agencies

California Native American tribes that are not federally recognized must either register as a nonprofit organization or partner with another eligible applicant when applying for grant funds.

DWR encourages collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of conservation and habitat improvement projects. Parties that wish to collaborate on a grant proposal may elect to use a

contractor-subcontractor relationship, a joint venture, a joint powers authority, or other appropriate mechanism. Grant agreements will be executed with one eligible grantee, which will then provide funding to its partners that are responsible for implementation of the project(s).

2.4.2 Eligible Grant Proposals

Proposals and projects must comply with the following criteria to be eligible:

1. Must be consistent with one or more of the conservation objectives described above in Section 2.3 of these Guidelines.
2. Must be located at or influence fish and wildlife habitats at the Salton Sea (excludes the lower Colorado River and Colorado River delta). Research may be conducted outside of the Salton Sea ecosystem, but must have a direct application to the design and structure of created habitats at the Sea.
3. Must meet General Application Requirements described in Section 2.5 of these Guidelines.
4. Must be submitted through DWR's Bond Management System (BMS) as described in Section 3 of these Guidelines.

2.5 General Application Requirements

All applicants will be required to comply with the eligibility requirements described below.

2.5.1 CEQA Compliance

Activities funded under Proposition 84 must comply with CEQA, Division 13 (PRC Section 75070 [reference PRC Section 21000 et seq.]). See Appendix A for web links to CEQA information and the State Clearinghouse Handbook.

Applications for Program funding must include the current version of the Project's environmental document for the proposed project or demonstration that CEQA would not apply to the proposed work (for example, research). At a minimum, applicants with projects requiring CEQA compliance must submit a completed Initial Study (IS) Checklist as well as complete the DWR Environmental Compliance Form, listing their current or planned environmental process. If awarded funding, and the applicant has not completed their CEQA documentation, DWR and DFG will consider the environmental documents as they are completed and decide whether to continue to fund the project.

2.5.2 Data Sharing and Usage

At DFG's request, the successful applicant must make all engineering and research data compiled or obtained for the Project available to the DFG, including without limitation, metadata, images, video, research protocols, and analyses. DFG may utilize these data to support its activities.

2.5.3 Monitoring Requirements

All successful applicants for habitat creation or enhancement and water quality improvement projects will be required to develop a monitoring and adaptive management plan. This plan can be prepared as part of the proposed work. Monitoring and adaptive management plans must cover a minimum period of 5 years from completion of the project. Applicants may include up to 2 years of monitoring costs in their grant application and funding request. The applicant must provide information on how the required monitoring activities will be funded after the initial 2-year period (see Section 3.2.3 Project Specific Information).

Any groundwater projects and projects that affect groundwater shall include groundwater monitoring requirements consistent with the Groundwater Quality Monitoring Act of 2001 (California Water Code Part 2.76, commencing with Section 10780 of Division 26). Projects that affect water quality shall include a monitoring component that allows the integration of data into statewide monitoring efforts, including but not limited to the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) carried out by the State Water Board. For the State Water Board's monitoring and reporting requirements, go to:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/qamp.shtml

DWR and DFG, in collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently developed a Monitoring and Assessment Plan for the Salton Sea that provides guidance for future monitoring and assessment actions in support of restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem. The objectives of this plan are to determine the existing conditions of the Salton Sea ecosystem; establish standards against which data gathered during long-term monitoring can be compared; identify and prioritize existing data gaps and collect data to fill these voids; and store, manage, and make publicly available monitoring data in a timely manner.

Monitoring and adaptive management plans developed under the Financial Assistance Program should be consistent with the guidance provided in the Monitoring and Assessment Plan, including the data sharing requirements. Applicants should review the guidance provided in this plan prior to submitting a proposal and developing a cost estimate. The Monitoring and Assessment Plan can be viewed at www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/

2.5.4 Short- and Long-term Maintenance Requirements

Successful applicants for habitat creation or enhancement and water quality improvement projects must prepare a long-term operation and maintenance plan. The plan must address how the project will be managed and maintained after construction is completed, and who will be responsible for management and maintenance activities. The operations and management plan must address management and maintenance that will take place after the project is completed (usually two to three years from the date of completion) and over the long term (up to 25 years or more) from the date of completion.

2.5.5 Urban Water Suppliers

Applicants and co-sponsors that are water supply agencies, or sub-divisions of water supply agencies, must provide documentation showing they have a complete Urban Water Management Plan or are not subject to the Urban Water Management Planning Act (California Water Code, Sections 10610 et. seq.).

For additional information regarding the *Urban Water Management Planning Act*, visit the DWR website on the topic at: <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/urbanplan/index.cfm>

2.5.6 Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality

All participants are subject to State and federal conflict of interest laws, including business and financial disclosure provisions. Applicants are encouraged to seek legal counsel regarding conflict of interest requirements. Applicable statutes include California Government Code Section 1090 and California Public Contract Code Sections 10410 and 10411.

All information contained in grant applications is confidential until the grant awards are announced.

2.5.7 Labor Compliance and Prevailing Wages Provisions

DWR uses a Labor Compliance Program pursuant to California Labor Code Section 1771.5. Applicants must comply with the requirements of Labor Code Sections 1770 et seq. The general prevailing wage determinations can be obtained online from the Department of Industrial Relations at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlsr/DPreWageDetermination.htm>

2.5.8 Contract Indemnity Provisions

Grantees will agree to indemnify the State and its officers, agents, and employees against and to hold the same free and harmless from any and all claims, demands, damages, losses, costs, expenses, or liability due or incident to, either in whole or in part, and whether directly or indirectly, arising out of the project, including, without limitation, arising out of post-construction operation and maintenance.

2.6 Application Process

The following explains the overall grant application process from DWR's solicitation through the award of funds. It does not provide details about preparing the Application Packet; this information is provided separately in Section 3.

2.6.1 Solicitation Notice

DWR will solicit grant proposals upon release of the final Guidelines and Application Package. The final Guidelines and Application Package will provide detailed instructions for submitting proposals and specific information on submittal requirements. The final Guidelines and Application Package, and solicitation notice will be posted on the DWR website at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/salttonsea/>

Anyone interested in applying for financial assistance from the Department may register with the Bond Management System (BMS) to be notified of all upcoming solicitations at: <http://www.water.ca.gov/bms>

2.6.2 Applicant Assistance Workshops

DWR will conduct one or more informational workshops on the application requirements for interested parties to address applicants' questions and to provide general assistance to applicants in preparing their grant applications. In addition to the informational workshops, applicants are encouraged to seek assistance from DWR grant program staff to understand grant requirements and complete grant applications.

2.6.3 Project Evaluation and Selection

Administrative Review

All grant applications will be reviewed by Salton Sea Program staff for eligibility and completeness. Substantially incomplete or ineligible applications will not be evaluated or considered for funding. DFG or DWR may request additional information from applicants after the submittal deadline if minor information is needed to evaluate the merits of the application.

Technical Review

All complete and eligible grant applications will be evaluated and scored by a Technical Review Panel (TRP) selected by DWR and DFG. Members of the TRP will be selected on the basis of their expertise in one or more of four program categories identified for funding under the Program (Section 2.3). Applications will be evaluated using the set of criteria below. Members of the TRP may also conduct one or more site visits during the review process. The TRP will submit the ranked and scored application list along with their review material to a Management Review Team composed of DWR and DFG staff for consideration.

Evaluation Criteria

The Technical Review Panel will evaluate the materials submitted by the applicant and score the overall proposal based on the following criteria and weighting. Please see Table 3-1, Application Evaluation Criteria, for more information.

Criteria	Weighting
Extent to which the proposed project contributes to achieving Program goals and objectives	35% of the total score
Qualifications of the applicant	15% of the total score
Quality of the proposed project/research	25% of the total score
Feasibility of successfully completing the proposed project/research	25% of the total score

Funding Recommendations

Following completion of the consensus scoring of all eligible proposals, the Management Review Team will convene to review the technical scores and comments. Recommendations

for funding will be based on the evaluations conducted at all previous levels and availability of funds.

Ultimately, the Management Review Team will make recommendations for funding proposals that best meet the Program's current goals. The Management Review Team may recommend funding for proposed projects, in whole or in part, based on information provided in the application on the timing and benefit(s) of project phases. The Management Review Team may take into consideration factors other than score to arrive at the final suite of proposed projects to recommend for funding.

Notification of Draft Funding Recommendations and Public Comment Period

Applicants will be notified of the availability of the Draft Funding Recommendations, and they will be posted electronically on the Program website at <http://www.water.ca.gov/salttonsea/>.

A 15-day public comment period will follow the notification in order to receive comments concerning the proposed funding recommendations. A summary of comments received during the public comment period will be prepared and made available on the Program's website.

2.6.4 Final Funding Awards

After public comments are considered, the Final Funding Recommendations will be submitted to the Director of DFG for funding approval. The Director of DFG may, at his or her discretion, recommend a package of grants determined to be most responsive to promote implementation of the Program. DFG's Director will approve the final funding list through DFG's existing administrative procedures.

After approval by DFG, all applicants will receive a notification letter of approval or denial. When the applicant indicates acceptance of the funding in writing, the applicant will become the grantee. Final award will be subject to the execution of a grant agreement between the State and the grantee.

If the State of California Budget Act for the current year and/or any subsequent years covered under the commitment letter does not appropriate sufficient funds for the grantee's project, the commitment shall be of no further force or effect unless these funds for the project are appropriated. In this event, the State shall have no liability to commit funds whatsoever to the grantee or to furnish any other considerations under this commitment.

2.7 Grant Administration

The process of executing grant agreements will begin as soon as projects are approved by the Director of DFG; it will likely take 2 to 6 months to develop and finalize the grant agreements. DWR and DFG or other technical staff may also conduct one or more site visits prior to finalizing grant agreements. The agreement must be signed by the grantee and DFG in order for the grant to be awarded. If an approved agreement is not signed by the grantee within 6 months of the award date, the grant may be withdrawn. The grant may be audited annually during the course of the project and for 3 years after the project is completed. The grant administration process will include the following steps for projects that require construction:

1. DFG sends Grant Agreement and materials for grant administration to grantee.

2. Grantee signs and returns all required copies to the DFG for signature (a fully executed copy will be returned to the grantee).
3. Grantee submits completed appraisal, purchase documents, etc., for DFG review (acquisition projects only).
4. Grantee commences preliminary work (planning, design, CEQA, etc.) on the project and submits requests for reimbursements, as applicable.
5. Grantee submits CEQA compliance documentation.
6. Grantee may be asked to submit preliminary plans to the State for review and comments.
7. Grantee submits final site plans, bid documents, and cost estimate (as applicable) for review by the DFG and DWR before commencing construction, and verification that all required permits are secured.
8. Grantee posts signs at a visible spot on the site acknowledging source of funds.
9. Grantee commences construction work on the project and may submit payment requests for reimbursement of project expenditures.
10. DFG may schedule periodic onsite visits and require periodic progress reports from the grantee.
11. Grantee completes project and submits project completion packet (to be provided under separate cover).
12. DFG makes final project inspection and approves final payment.

Amendments to grant agreements require the approval of all parties. Amendments may address:

- Changes in schedule (such as time extension)
- Changes in the scope of work
- Changes in total budget or transfer of funds between tasks that exceeds 20 percent of the DFG-approved budget for either task (less than 20 percent does not require a formal amendment but does require submittal of an updated budget and DFG's program manager's approval)
- Changes to any of the agreement provisions
- Changes in parties to the agreement

2.7.1 Costs Eligible for Reimbursement

Costs eligible for reimbursement include the reasonable costs of engineering, design, land and easement acquisition, legal fees, preparation of environmental documentation, environmental mitigation, and project implementation. Although grant funds will be disbursed as provided in the agreement to reimburse costs incurred by the grantee, certain costs will not be reimbursed or paid until the following conditions are met:

- For project activities that could affect the environment, the grantee complies with all applicable requirements of CEQA and other environmental laws,
- For project activities requiring permits, the permits are obtained.

Costs not eligible for reimbursement include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Costs incurred prior to effective date of a grant agreement with the State, unless agreed to in writing by the DFG;
- Operation and maintenance costs;
- Purchase of equipment that is not an integral part of the project;
- Establishing a trust or endowment fund;
- Purchase of water supplies;
- Replacement of existing funding sources for ongoing programs;
- Support of existing agency requirements and mandates;
- Acquisition of property in excess of fair market value. Additionally, DFG will not participate in transactions acquiring property in excess of fair market value.
- Purchase of land in excess of the minimum required acreage necessary to operate the project, as set forth and detailed by engineering and feasibility studies, or land purchased prior to effective date of a grant agreement with the DFG; and
- Payment of principal or interest of existing indebtedness or any interest payments unless the debt is incurred after effective date of a grant agreement with DFG, DFG agrees in writing to the eligibility of the costs for reimbursement before the debt is incurred, and the purposes for which the debt is incurred are otherwise reimbursable project costs.

Generally, only work performed after the effective date of the grant agreement will be eligible for reimbursement. Advance funds cannot be provided. Work performed before the full execution of a grant agreement is done at the risk of the applicant and without expectation of reimbursement.

2.7.2 Retention of Funds

DFG may retain up to 10 percent of all approved payments to assure satisfactory completion of individual items or tasks. The approved completion of items or tasks will be the basis of reimbursement of retained funds. When all work associated with an item or task described in the work plan has been completed to the satisfaction of DFG and all required deliverables for that item or task have been submitted to and approved by DFG, the grantee may request payment of any retained funds. DFG or DWR may choose to inspect the site at that time to ensure proper completion of the task. DFG or DWR will retain its right of inspection at any time throughout the term of the grant agreement. DWR at its sole discretion may pay the retained funds for that item or task to the grantee prior to completion of the project.

2.7.3 Reimbursement Requests

State funds or allocations will be paid to grantees in arrears on a reimbursable basis at least quarterly, but no more often than monthly, at DFG's discretion. A progress report and reimbursement request (invoice) will be submitted to DFG for approval and payment. All reimbursement is subject to the availability of funds.

2.7.4 Progress Reports

The grantee will be required to submit a progress report in sufficient detail to substantiate reimbursable and local cost share expenses along with each invoice. Progress reports shall include the following information: the period covered by the request, description of activities since the previous report, status of the project relative to the progress schedule, an estimate percentage of work completed, records of expenditures, the percentages of State and total funding expended, key issues that must be resolved, and any other information pertinent to the implementation of the project.

DFG will monitor progress and may suspend all payments indefinitely if it appears the grantee is in breach of the agreement to such an extent that ultimate achievement of project objectives may be significantly compromised. If payments are suspended, the grantee will be given 6 months to cure the breach, or the grant agreement will automatically terminate. Decisions to suspend payments may be appealed to the Director of DFG.

2.7.5 Post-implementation Report

Within 90 days after the project is completed, the grantee shall submit a post-implementation report that includes the following:

- An executive summary not exceeding two pages;
- Records of expenditures;
- Photographs of the before-project and after-project conditions, if applicable;
- A comparison of the projected benefits versus the measured benefits;
- A comparison of the original schedule and the actual schedule;
- A discussion of problems that occurred during the work and how the problems were resolved;
- Submittal of any required deliverables that have not been submitted previously; and
- A listing of required deliverables submitted previously, with dates of submittal and DWR acceptance.

2.7.6 Audits and Recordkeeping

A grantee will be required to maintain all records and documents pertaining to a project for 3 years after completion. A grantee may be required to make all records and documents pertaining to the project available for inspection and audit by DWR and/or the State Auditor during normal business hours, both during the project and in the 3 years following.

DWR and/or the State Auditor may audit the records of the project at any time within 3 years after final payment of State funds. DWR may also require grantees to allow a citizen advisory committee to annually audit the project records. In addition, grantees must comply with any additional audit requirements imposed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency in performing the Secretary's obligation to independently audit Proposition 84 funding and annually list expenditures.

2.7.7 Loss of Funding

The following are examples of actions that may result in a grantee's loss of funding. This does not represent a complete list:

- Grantee fails to execute a grant agreement.
- Grantee withdraws from the grant program.
- Property cannot be acquired at approved fair market value.
- Grantee loses willing seller(s).
- Grantee fails to submit required documentation within the periods specified in the grant agreement.
- Grantee fails to submit evidence of CEQA compliance as specified by the grant agreement.
- Grantee changes project scope without prior approval from the State.
- Grantee fails to complete the project.
- Grantee fails to make data, data analysis or data products available in a timely manner
- Grantee fails to demonstrate sufficient progress.

SECTION 3

Application Package

All applicants will be required to submit an application using the online Bond Management System (BMS) and an original, signed hard copy of the application, which may be printed from the BMS system following completion of the online application. The online BMS application form and instructions are available through the homepage at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/bms>.

Applicants must first register their organization with BMS before filling in the application.

3.1 Registering with the Bond Management System (BMS)

Any interested party or organization can register with the BMS system at anytime. From the BMS homepage, click *Registration*, and follow the steps to complete the process for each user and organization. Please see the BMS public user guide, available on the homepage, for further instructions.

After registering, navigate to the, “Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program 2011 PSP,” on the *Active PSPs* list to apply for this application cycle. This PSP application will become active immediately following the release of the final guidelines.

3.2 Submitting a Grant Application

Submit one online application for each project proposal. A “master” application containing several projects at more than one location is not eligible for funding. However, applicants may submit more than one application per grant round. Applicants will have 45 days from the release of the PSP to submit their applications both online and by mail.

After submitting your application online, print and mail one hard copy with an attached original signature page, along with any supplementary materials on a CD/DVD in Word, Excel, or PDF to this address:

Kent Nelson
CA Department of Water Resources
Salton Sea Restoration Program
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

3.3 Application Form

The online application requires the applicant to respond to a series of information fields intended to elicit key information about the proposal and how effectively the proposed work meets the goals of the grant program. The information provided will be used to evaluate project proposals according to the evaluation criteria and scoring described in Table 3-1.

When entering information, it is recommended to prepare your application responses ahead of time and then copy and paste the text into the online form fields. Also, it is recommended to save your application after completing each form field or attachment upload; uploading too much information at once can overload the system.

The online BMS application is organized by tabs, and applicants are required to complete three separate sections:

- Applicant Information
- General Information and Attachments
- Project-specific information for **one** of the four possible project categories:
 - Habitat Creation and Enhancement
 - Water Quality Improvement
 - Research
 - Adaptive Management Experimentation

Detailed instructions for completing the three sections follow. The information requirements differ among the four possible categories of proposals; applicants need only provide requested information relevant to their proposal category. Examples and templates of attachments may be downloaded from the Program website: www.water.ca.gov/salttonsea.

3.3.1 Applicant Information Section

Applicant Information

Organization Name:	Select your organization from the drop-down list. Your organization must first be registered and appear on the drop-down list before filling in the application.
Proposal Name:	Insert the title of your proposal.
Project Objective:	Indicate the primary objective of the proposed work. The objective should be consistent with the Program objectives previously described in these guidelines.

Budget

Amount Requested:	Indicate the dollar amount of the funding requested from the Program.
Local Contribution:	Indicate the amount, if any, of local funding dedicated to completing the proposed work or other elements of the overall project. Indicate only funding that is committed and available to the proposed project. If no local funding would be provided, insert a zero.
State Contribution:	Indicate the amount, if any, of other California State funding dedicated to completing the proposed work or other elements of the overall project. Indicate only funding that is committed and available to the proposed project. If no other State funding would be provided, insert a zero.
Federal Contribution:	Indicate the amount, if any, of federal funding dedicated to completing the proposed work or other elements of the overall project. Indicate only funding that is committed and available to the proposed project. If no federal funding would be provided, insert a zero.
Other Contribution:	Indicate the amount, if any, of other funding dedicated to completing the proposed work or other elements of the overall project. Indicate only funding that is committed and available to the proposed project. If no other funding would be provided, insert a zero.
Total Project Cost:	Indicate the total project cost, including any local, other State agency, federal, or other funding sources.

Geographic Information

Latitude:	The BMS requires a single lat-long position for the project. Insert the lat-long coordinate for a point near the center of the project area. If multiple locations are involved, select a point that best characterizes the project location. For research, provide the coordinates for the location where the majority of the field work would occur. If conducted in an offsite laboratory, use a point that roughly corresponds to the center of the Salton Sea.
Longitude:	See above.
Longitude/Latitude Clarification:	Briefly describe the location of the lat-long coordinate provided above; for example, "Center point of proposed habitat creation site."
Location:	Describe where the majority of work would occur; for example, "Salton Sea shoreline near the mouth of Alamo River."
County:	Insert the name of the county in which the majority of work would occur (either Imperial or Riverside).
Groundwater Basin:	Indicate the DWR groundwater basin number (7-21.01, 7-22, 7-25, 7-30, 7-30, 7-31, 7-32, or 7-33) in which the majority of the work would be conducted (refer to the groundwater basin map at: http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/bulletin118/qwbasin_maps_descriptions.cfm).
Hydrologic Region:	Insert "Colorado River."
Watershed:	Insert "Salton Sea Transboundary."

Legislative Information

Assembly District:	Enter "80."
Senate District:	Enter "40."
U.S. Congressional District:	If the proposed work would occur along the northern portion of the Salton Sea, enter "45." If it would occur along the southern portion, enter "51." If both, enter "45 and 51."

3.3.2 General Information and Attachments Section

Project Type:	Select the project type from the dropdown list.
Project Description:	Briefly summarize the proposed project (limited to one page). Include the following information: project goals and objectives, project location, proposed work to be funded, proposed approach (overview of techniques and methods), anticipated timeframe, and anticipated benefits.
Applicant Contact Information:	Provide contact information (name, organization, phone number, and address) for the individual who would be the primary contact regarding the grant proposal.
Project Team Qualifications:	<p>Identify and describe your project team, including any partnerships with nonprofit groups, citizens' groups, non-governmental organizations, and public or governmental agencies. Identify the proposed Project Manager/Principal Investigator (PM/PI) and key staff as well as the corresponding roles of team members. Provide a brief biographical summary for the PM/PI and each of the key staff members.</p> <p>An organization chart and copies of resumes will be entered in subsequent fields.</p>
Related Experience:	Describe your experience with completing this type of project or similar projects within the scheduled timeframe and within the allowable budget. Provide a description of recently completed or ongoing projects that support your team's ability to perform the proposed work.

Attachments

Authorizing Resolution:	Attach a scanned copy of a signed resolution or equivalent document from the applicant's governing board or authorized officer authorizing the submittal of this application and indicating its intent to enter into a grant agreement if selected.
Applicant Team Organization: Chart	Attach an organization chart indicating key staff and their roles relative to the proposed work.
Resumes/CVs:	Attach resumes/CVs for the PM/PI and key staff proposed for the project.
Work Plan:	Attach a work plan with a task-by-task description of how the proposed work would be conducted and identifies the deliverables for each task. The work plan must also identify which costs are being directly funded by the Program.
Budget:	Attach a budget for the requested funding showing the breakdown of estimated costs of the proposed work by task, including a list of equipment to be purchased as part of the project. The budget should also indicate the total cost of the project and the source of additional funding, if any, including any cash contributions, in-kind services, volunteer effort, maintenance and operation costs, and other grant funding. Please differentiate the grant request from the total project budget and demonstrate how the grant award would be tracked separately. Also, describe the basis for the cost estimates and the methods used to calculate them.
Schedule:	Attach a schedule for completing the proposed work by task, and indicate significant milestones. This can be submitted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Project file formats.
Site Maps and Photos:	Attach a location map indicating the proposed project and vicinity, and any photos and diagrams that would help illustrate the current condition of the proposed site. Please include a legal description of the project site, if available.
Design Drawings and Figures:	Attach design drawings that depict the proposed habitat creation or enhancement as well as any diagrams or figures that would help illustrate project features and assist in the review of the proposal.
Environmental Compliance:	Complete and attach the DWR Environmental Compliance Form
Permit Checklist:	Complete and attach a permit checklist.
CEQA Initial Study Checklist:	If the proposed project is subject to CEQA, complete and attach an Initial Study CEQA checklist.
Letters of Support:	Attach any letters or other evidence from local entities indicating support for the proposed project.

3.3.3 Project-specific Information

Detailed instructions for each proposal category follow. The information requirements differ among the four possible categories of projects; applicants need only provide requested information relevant to their proposal category.

Habitat Creation and Enhancement Section

Project Goals and Objectives:	State the habitat restoration goals and objectives of the proposed project. These should be simple, objective statements about what the proposed project seeks to accomplish over the near and long term. The objectives should be measurable and consistent with the Program goals identified in the guidelines. Include a description of performance metrics that could be used to measure the effectiveness in achieving the stated goals and objectives.
Proposed Habitat Creation or Enhancement:	Describe the habitat proposed for creation or enhancement. Include a description of the anticipated features and characteristics of the created or enhanced habitat (such as acreage, water depth, salinity, vegetation cover) upon completion of project construction as well as the characteristics of the habitat when fully established. Indicate the timeframe for achieving full establishment of the habitat.
Current Site Conditions:	<p>Describe the current conditions at the site proposed for habitat creation or enhancement and the immediate vicinity. Include information on land ownership and characteristics such as land use, topography, soils and sediments, vegetation, wildlife usage, drainage patterns, contaminants, and any other features pertinent to the proposed project. The description should be sufficient to demonstrate that the site is suitable for the proposed project. Indicate whether the site is occupied by State- or federally listed species or species of special concern.</p> <p>Attach a location map and any photos or figures that illustrate the current condition of the site on the "Site Map and Photos" section of the application under the tab labeled "General Information and Attachments."</p>
Proposed Approach:	<p>Generally describe the approach for implementation of the proposed work. Include information on grading, water conveyance, planting, invasive plant removal, erosion control methods, and other key features of the proposed work. Indicate whether the proposed techniques have been successfully implemented at the Salton Sea or in a similar environment. Demonstrate that the best available science has been incorporated into the design.</p> <p>Attach design drawings and other graphical information related to the design on the "Design Drawings and Figures" section of the application under the tab labeled "General Information and Attachments."</p> <p>Also attach a Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule as described on the "General Information and Attachments" tab of this application.</p>
Project Benefits:	Describe the anticipated benefits to be provided by the proposed project and explain how the project would further the goals of the Program. Indicate the species that the habitat is intended to support and describe the relative contribution the project would make in supporting the priority fish and wildlife described in the guidelines. If applicable, describe how the proposed project would benefit adjacent habitat or provide connectivity among existing habitats. Also, describe future actions, if any, needed beyond the scope of this project to fully address the overall project goals.
Operations and Maintenance (O&M):	<p>Generally describe how the project would be operated and maintained over time. Include a description of periodic maintenance activities that would be required, an estimate of projected costs, and a description of the frequency and timing of activities such as water management, vegetation management, sediment removal, and other O&M activities relevant to the proposed project. Indicate who would perform long-term maintenance and describe how the O&M would be funded.</p> <p>The applicant will be expected to prepare a detailed O&M Plan for the project, which should be included as a task component of the Work Plan and Budget.</p>

Monitoring and Adaptive Management:	<p>Generally identify the areas of scientific uncertainty associated with the project and describe the plan to adaptively manage the habitat to achieve the project goals and objectives. Describe the monitoring that would be conducted to measure performance and inform adaptive management adjustments in the future.</p> <p>The applicant will be expected to prepare a detailed Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for the project, which should be included as a task component of the Work Plan and Budget. The plan will be for a minimum of 5 years. Monitoring reports are to be submitted annually to DFG. Funding for implementation of the first 2 years of monitoring under the plan can be included in the applicant's budget. Indicate the funding source for the monitoring and adaptive management beyond the initial 2 years.</p>
Phasing:	<p>Indicate whether and how the proposed work might be phased or reduced if the project is funded at a reduced level. Explain how project benefits and total cost of the project would be affected if portions were deferred to later years. Also, describe the extent to which the proposed habitat could be expanded in the future and the cost effectiveness of those additions.</p> <p>If the proposed work is a continuation of previously completed work, describe the extent to which the continued success of the prior work is dependent upon the proposed work. If the previous work was funded by a State agency, list the project name and year the grant was awarded.</p>
Availability of Water:	<p>If the proposed project requires water, describe the water requirements (volume and quality) and identify the source(s). Explain the reliability of the water source and describe how the proposed habitat would be influenced by a temporary reduction or interruption of water supply or changes in water quality. Identify the sources of funding for the water supply.</p>
Adjacent Property Impacts:	<p>Describe how the proposed project might affect adjacent property and landowners. Disclose any known concerns or opposition to the project or land access issues.</p>
Sustainability and Climate Change:	<p>Describe the resilience of the proposed habitat to changing conditions, such as higher average temperatures, decrease in the surface elevation of the Salton Sea, and increased salinity in the Salton Sea. Indicate the period of time that the proposed habitat would be functional.</p>

Water Quality Improvement Section

Project Goals and Objectives:	<p>State the goals and objectives of the proposed project. These should be simple, objective statements about what the proposed project seeks to accomplish over the near and long term. The goals should be measureable and consistent with the Program goals identified in the guidelines. Include a description of performance metrics that could be used to measure the effectiveness in achieving the stated goals and objectives.</p>
Proposed Water Quality Improvements:	<p>Describe the proposed water quality improvement project, including physical features of the project, the source and quality of the water to be improved, the water quality issue to be addressed (for example, selenium, nutrients), the anticipated level of improvement, the location of any proposed facilities, the anticipated volume of water with improved quality, the anticipated use of improved water, the amounts and disposition of contaminants removed, and other relevant characteristics of the proposed project. Indicate the timeframe for the project to become fully functional.</p>
Current Site Conditions:	<p>If the project requires the construction or installation of facilities, describe the current conditions at the location(s) where the facilities would be installed. Include information on characteristics such as land use, topography, soils, vegetation, wildlife usage, drainage patterns, contaminants, and any other features pertinent to the proposed project location. If the proposed project involves changes in land use practices in the watershed, describe the characteristics of the area affected. Indicate whether the site is occupied by State- or federally listed species or species of special concern.</p> <p>Attach a location map and any photos or figures that illustrate the current condition of the site or area on the "Site Map and Photos" section of the application under the tab labeled "General Information and Attachments."</p>

Proposed Approach:	<p>Generally describe the approach for implementation of the proposed work. As relevant, include information on construction, water conveyance, planting, and other key features of the proposed work. Indicate whether the proposed techniques have been successfully implemented at the Salton Sea or in a similar environment. Demonstrate that the best available science has been incorporated into the approach.</p> <p>If relevant, attach design drawings and other graphical information related to the design on the “Design Drawings and Figures” section of the application under the tab labeled “General Information and Attachments.”</p> <p>Also attach a Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule as described on the “General Information and Attachment” tab of this application.</p>
Project Benefits:	<p>Describe the anticipated benefits to be provided by the proposed project and explain how the project would further the goals of the Program. Identify the species or habitats that would benefit from the water quality improvement and describe the relative contribution the project would make in supporting the priority fish and wildlife described in the guidelines.</p>
Operations and Maintenance (O&M):	<p>Generally describe how the project would be operated and maintained over time. Include a description of periodic maintenance activities that would be required, an estimate of projected costs, and a description of the frequency and timing of activities such as water management, vegetation management, sediment removal, and other O&M activities relevant to the proposed project. Indicate who would perform long-term maintenance and describe how the O&M would be funded.</p> <p>The applicant will be expected to prepare a detailed O&M Plan for the project, which should be included as a task component of the Work Plan and Budget.</p>
Monitoring and Adaptive Management:	<p>Generally identify the areas of scientific uncertainty associated with the project and describe the plan to adaptively manage the project to help ensure that the project goals and objectives are achieved. Describe the monitoring that would be conducted to measure performance and inform adaptive management adjustments in the future.</p> <p>The applicant will be expected to prepare a detailed Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan for the project, which should be included as a task component of the Work Plan and Budget. Monitoring reports are to be submitted annually to DFG. Funding for implementation of the first two years of monitoring under the plan can be included in the applicant's budget. Indicate the funding source for the monitoring and adaptive management beyond the initial two years.</p>
Phasing:	<p>Indicate whether and how the proposed work might be phased or reduced if the project is funded at a reduced level. Explain how project benefits and total cost of the project would be affected if portions were deferred to later years. Describe the extent to which the proposed project could be expanded in the future and the cost effectiveness of those additions.</p> <p>If the proposed work is a continuation of previously completed work, describe the extent to which the continued success of the prior work is dependent upon the proposed work. If the previous work was funded by a State agency, list the project name and year the grant was awarded.</p>
Availability of Water:	<p>Describe the water requirements (volume and quality) and identify the source(s). Explain the reliability of the water source and describe how the proposed project would be influenced by a temporary reduction or interruption of water supply or changes in water quality.</p>
Adjacent Property Impacts:	<p>Describe how the proposed project might affect adjacent property and landowners. Disclose any known concerns or opposition to the project or land access issues.</p>
Sustainability and Climate Change:	<p>Describe the sustainability of the proposed project and its resilience to change.</p>

Research Section

Research Goals and Objectives:	State the goals and objectives of the proposed research.
Proposed Research:	Describe the proposed research, the scientific basis, and the questions that the research would investigate. Include any conceptual models that may help clarify the areas of uncertainty. Attach any relevant conceptual models on the “Design Drawings and Figures” section under the “General Information and Attachments” tab.
Relevance to Program Goals:	Describe how the proposed research directly relates to the successful creation and maintenance of habitat at the Salton Sea in the near term. Within the context of previous attempts to collect similar information, describe how the proposed research would fill a data gap or provide new information useful to improving existing and future habitat values.
Research Methods:	Describe the approach and design of the proposed research. Include the initial hypotheses to be tested, anticipated experimental methods, and likely statistical analyses. For research conducted in the field, indicate the locations where work would occur. Attach maps and other graphical information related to the research on the “Design Drawings and Figures” section of the application under the tab labeled “General Information and Attachments.” Also attach a Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule as described on the “General Information and Attachment” tab of this application.
Timeframe:	Indicate how soon after project initiation the proposed research could provide managers with preliminary interpretations of data that may lead to insight into creation and management of habitats.
Phasing:	Indicate whether and how the proposed work might be phased or reduced if the project is funded at a reduced level. Explain how project benefits and total cost of the project would be affected if portions were deferred to later years.
Benefits of the Research:	Describe the anticipated benefits to be provided by the proposed research and explain how the results would further the goals of the Program. Indicate the species that would ultimately benefit from the work and describe the relative contribution the project could make in supporting the priority fish and wildlife described in the guidelines.

Adaptive Management Experimentation Section

Adaptive Management Goals:	State the goals and objectives of the proposed adaptive management experiment. These should be simple, objective statements about what the proposed work seeks to accomplish over the near and long term. The goals should be measureable and consistent with the Program goals identified in the guidelines. Include a description of performance metrics that would be used to measure the effectiveness in achieving the stated goals and objectives.
Proposed Experiment:	Describe the proposed adaptive management experiment. Include a description of the habitat or management practices that would be manipulated for the purposes of the experiment and the timeframe over which the experiment would be conducted. Describe the rationale for the proposed experiment, including the scientific basis and any conceptual models that help clarify the areas of uncertainty. Attach any relevant conceptual models on the “Design Drawings and Figures” section under the “General Information and Attachments” tab. Indicate the timeframe for the project to become fully functional.
Current Site Conditions and Management:	Identify the owners and land managers of the site where the proposed work would be conducted. Describe the current conditions at the site proposed for the experiment, including information on the physical characteristics pertinent to the proposed project. Describe how the site is managed, with particular attention to management actions that may be modified as a result of the experiment. Indicate whether the site is occupied by State- or federally listed species or species of special concern. Attach a location map and any photos or figures that illustrate the current condition of the

	site on the “Site Map and Photos” section of the application under the tab labeled “General Information and Attachments.”
Proposed Approach:	<p>Describe the approach for implementation of the proposed work. Include information on the study design, monitoring requirements, and a description of how management would be adapted as a result of project outcomes. Also, describe the extent of any additional activities at the site needed to accommodate the experiment, such as earthwork, installation of water conveyance structures, planting, invasive plant removal, erosion control, and other key actions of the proposed work. Indicate whether the proposed techniques have been successfully implemented at the Salton Sea or in a similar environment.</p> <p>Attach design drawings and other graphical information related to the experiment on the “Design Drawings and Figures” section of the application under the tab labeled “General Information and Attachments.”</p> <p>Also attach a Work Plan, Budget, and Schedule as described on the “General Information and Attachment” tab of this application.</p>
Project Benefits:	Describe the anticipated benefits to be provided by the proposed project and explain how the project would further the goals of the Program.
Phasing:	Indicate whether and how the proposed work might be phased or reduced if the project is funded at a reduced level. Explain how project benefits and total cost of the project would be affected if portions were deferred to later years.
Availability of Water:	If the proposed project requires additional water, describe the water requirements (volume and quality) and identify the source(s). Explain the reliability of the water source and describe how the proposed project would be influenced by a temporary reduction or interruption of water supply or changes in water quality.
Adjacent Property Impacts:	Describe how the proposed project might affect adjacent property and landowners. Disclose any known concerns or opposition to the project or land access issues.

3.4 Application Checklist

To be considered complete and eligible for evaluation, applications must include a BMS application form (www.water.ca.gov/bms) with all fields completed, a printout hard copy of the BMS application with the applicant(s) original signatures, and the following attachments. An asterisk (*) indicates a required attachment for all applications. The others should be submitted if applicable.

- ☐ *A resolution from the applicant’s organization governing board authorizing submittal of a grant application, indicating their intent to accept the grant if awarded, and authorizing specific individuals to sign the funding agreement on behalf of the organization.
- ☐ *Resumes and other organizational documents qualifying the project team
- ☐ *A work plan detailing a task-by-task description of work to be performed
- ☐ *A budget for the requested funding
- ☐ *A schedule for completing the proposed work, the availability of results, and monitoring efforts
- ☐ A site map or photos showing the location of the project in relation to the Salton Sea

- ☐ Drawings, sketches, or figures in adequate, descriptive detail to evaluate the project
- ☐ *The DWR Environmental Compliance Form
- ☐ Complete Initial Study Checklist along with the most current version of the project's CEQA document
- ☐ Permit Checklist identifying the project's anticipated permitting requirements
- ☐ Any letters, either willing seller letters (if acquiring property) or letters of support from affected land owners or other applicable members of the community

3.5 Application Evaluation Criteria

Based on the materials submitted by the applicant, the Technical Review Panel will evaluate and score the overall proposal based on the following criteria and determine an initial ranking based on a maximum score of 100 points possible. Please refer to the table below.

TABLE 3-1
SSFAP Application Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Application Elements				Points
	Habitat Creation and Enhancement	Water Quality	Research	Adaptive Management	
Consistency with Program Goals and Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project goals and objectives - Proposed project - Project benefits - Timeframe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project goals and objectives - Proposed project - Project benefits - Timeframe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research goals and objectives - Proposed research - Research benefits - Timeframe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adaptive management goals - Proposed experiment - Project benefits - Timeframe 	35
Applicant Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project team qualifications and organization - Resumes* - Related experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project team qualifications and organization - Resumes* - Related experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project team qualifications and organization - Resumes* - Related experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project team qualifications and organization - Resumes* - Related experience 	20
Quality of Proposed Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed approach - Project operations and maintenance - Project monitoring and management - Work plan* - Budget* - Schedule* - Design drawings and figures* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed approach - Project operations and maintenance - Project monitoring and management - Work plan* - Budget* - Schedule* - Design drawings and figures* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research methods - Work plan* - Schedule* - Budget* - Design drawings and figures (if applicable) * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed approach - Work plan* - Schedule* - Budget* 	25
Feasibility to Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current site conditions - Phasing - Availability of water - Adjacent property impacts - Sustainability and climate change - Environmental compliance/ CEQA IS checklist* - Permit checklist* - Sitemaps and photos* - Letters of support* - Authorizing resolution* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current site conditions - Phasing - Availability of water - Adjacent property impacts - Sustainability and climate change - Environmental compliance/ CEQA IS checklist* - Permit checklist* - Sitemaps and photos* - Letters of support* - Authorizing Resolution* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current site conditions - Environmental compliance/ CEQA IS checklist* - Permit checklist* - Sitemaps and photos* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current site conditions - Phasing - Availability of water - Adjacent property impacts - Sustainability and climate change - Environmental compliance/ CEQA IS checklist* - Permit checklist* - Sitemaps and photos* - Letters of support* - Authorizing resolution* 	20
* Denotes attachment					Total Points 100

APPENDIX A

Useful Web Links

Bond Accountability

<http://bondaccountability.ca.gov/>

California Water Code

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=wat&codebody=&hits=20>

DWR

Salton Sea Restoration Program

<http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/>

Species Conservation Habitat Project

<http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/habitat/habitat.cfm>

Home Page

<http://www.water.ca.gov/>

Grants and Loans

<http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/>

Proposition 84

http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/prop84/index_prop84.cfm

Bond Management System

<http://www.water.ca.gov/bms>

CEQA Information

Environmental Information

<http://ceres.ca.gov/index.html>

California State Clearinghouse Handbook

http://opr.ca.gov/planning/publications/sch_handbook_2006.pdf

DWR Guidance on Climate Change Issues

<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/>

Department of Industrial Relations

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/lcp.asp>

Environmental Justice

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/envjustice/>

NEPA Information

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/index.html>

Public Resource Code

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cacodes/prc.html>

Definitions and Acronyms

Applicant. A California local agency or nonprofit organization, or an organization consisting of more than one eligible local agency or nonprofit association that is the principal party applying for funding under this proposal solicitation cycle.

Application. The electronic and hard copy submission to DWR that requests grant funding for the proposal that the applicant intends to implement.

Acquisition. Obtaining a fee interest or any other interest in real property, including easements, leases, and development rights.

BMS. Bond Management System; the online application to receive and manage grant funding through the Natural Resources Agency.

California Native American Tribe. A federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as defined in the State of California Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Supplement to General Plan Guidelines.

CEQA. California Environmental Quality Act.

DFG. California Department of Fish and Game.

DWR. California Department of Water Resources.

Easement. An interest in land entitling the holder thereof to a limited use or enjoyment of the land in which the interest exists for a set period of time, often in perpetuity.

Funding Agreement. An agreement entered into by a successful applicant and the State to provide funds for the selected project.

Grantee. An applicant who has an agreement for grant funding with the State.

Natural Resources Agency. The parent agency under which both DWR and DFG operate.

Nonprofit organization. An organization that does not operate for profit and has no official governmental status, including but not limited to clubs, societies, neighborhood organizations, advisory councils, conservation organizations and privately run local community conservation corps. Public Resources Code Section 75005(k) defines a nonprofit organization as a nonprofit corporation qualified to do business in California, and qualified under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

Other sources of funds. Cash or in-kind contributions that are required or used to complete the project beyond the grant funds provided by the Program.

Project. All planning, engineering, acquisition of real property interests, construction, and related activities undertaken to implement a discrete action to be funded under the Program. It also refers to research funded and conducted in accordance with these Guidelines.

Property interest. Any right in real property, including easement, fee title, and any other kind of right acquired by legally binding means.

Proposal. A project or suite of actions that are proposed for funding pursuant to an application for grant funding.

PSP. Proposal Solicitation Package; the online application for receiving grant funding from the Program.

Public agency. Any State of California department or an agency, a county, city, public district or public agency formed under California law.

The Salton Sea or The Sea. A saline lake of southeast California in the Imperial Valley. It was a salt-covered depression known as the Salton Sink until 1905, when flood waters of the Colorado River formed the lake.

SCH. The Species Conservation Habitat project.

State. The State of California, acting by and through the Department of Water Resources or the Department of Fish and Game.

Templates and Examples

The Following documents are provided to assist applicants in providing information succinctly and uniformly, and are available for download on the Program website at:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea>

- Resolution TEMPLATE
- Work Plan EXAMPLE
- Budget EXAMPLE
- The DWR Environmental Compliance Form ATTACHMENT
- Permit Checklist ATTACHMENT
- CEQA Initial Study Checklist TEMPLATE
- Project Description EXAMPLE
- Preliminary Operations and Maintenance Plan TEMPLATE
- Grant Agreement TEMPLATE